

Date Mailed October 2, 2001
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BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Badger Telecom, Inc., for Approval of an  
Alternative Regulation Plan

300-TI-101

Application of Central State Telephone Company for Approval of  
an Alternative Regulation Plan

1020-TI-101

**NOTICE OF TELEPHONIC HEARING**

<b>Telephonic Hearing Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, October 16, 2001 – 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Hearing Locations:</b>	<b>Amnicon Falls Hearing Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Public Service Commission, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, WI</b>  <b>Council Room at the Neillsville City Hall, 118 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Neillsville, WI</b>

<b>Comments Due:</b> <b>Tuesday, October 16, 2001 – Noon</b>	<b>Address Comments To:</b> <b>David Albino, Administrator</b> Telecommunications Division Public Service Commission P.O. Box 7854 Madison, WI 53707-7854 FAX (608) 266-3957
<b>FAX Due:</b> <b>Monday, October 15, 2001 – Noon</b>	

On August 28, 2001, the Commission issued a Notice of Proceeding and Investigation and Assessment of Costs (Initial Notice) in this docket. The Initial Notice stated that this is a proceeding under Wis. Stat. § 196.195(12) to consider whether it is in the public interest to approve an alternative regulation plan (Plan) for Badger Telecom, Inc. d/b/a TDS Telecom-Neillsville (Badger) and Central State Telephone Company, d/b/a TDS Telecom-Vesper (Central State), and if so, what provisions should be included in such Plans. Wis. Stat. § 196.195(12)(b)3. directs the Commission to regulate telecommunications utilities with the goal of developing alternative forms of regulation and to approve an incentive regulatory plan for each telecommunications utility in the state.

On May 25, 2001, Badger and Central State (Applicants) filed proposed alternative regulation Plans under Wis. Stat. § 196.195(12). The Plans are nearly identical to alternative

regulation plans recently approved for Grantland Telecom, Inc., and Riverside Telecom, Inc.<sup>1</sup> The Plans proposed by Badger and Central State would provide the Applicants with pricing and other regulatory flexibility as a result of the Applicants waiving certain rights under state law related to competition and filing a plan for deployment of advanced services. The pricing flexibility under the Plans includes rate rebalancing. Rate rebalancing generally involves increases to rates for local residential and business service and decreases to rates for intrastate access services paid by long distance providers.

By July 1, 2004, Applicants propose to consent pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 196.50(1)(b)2, to allow other eligible telecommunications providers to be certified to provide basic local service in its service territory. Applicants also commit to filing wholesale tariffs by January 1, 2003. In addition, Applicants shall meet certain minimum service quality standards under the Plans while continuing to comply with Commission service quality rules. The Plans remove limitations on earnings, limit the ability of customers to petition for Commission review of rate increases, and suspend certain statutory sections. Copies of the Applicants' filings may be obtained by written request to Jean Pauk, TDS Telecom, P.O. Box 5158, Madison, Wisconsin 53705-0158 or by e-mail addressed to [jean.pauk@tdstelecom.com](mailto:jean.pauk@tdstelecom.com).

Applicants are responsible for giving notice to customers of the filing of its application with the Commission and of the hearing scheduled herein. Applicants are responsible for producing proof of notice at the hearing.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that a hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 16, 2001, at 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room at the Neillsville City Hall, 118 W. 5th Street, Neillsville, Wisconsin. This will be a telephonic hearing conducted from two sites. This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs. Parking for people with disabilities is available. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations should contact the hearing coordinator listed below. Commission Staff will participate from the second location, the Public Service Commission Building, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, Wisconsin in the Amnicon Falls Hearing Room. This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs through the Whitney Way, first floor (lobby) entrance. Parking for people with disabilities is available on the south side of the building. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations should contact the hearing coordinator listed below.

Any person desiring to become a party shall file a request pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(2m) and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.32(3) no later than 10 days from the date of this notice. The request shall be addressed to Administrative Law Judge David C. Whitcomb, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854.

This is a Class 1 proceeding as defined in Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a).

Members of the public who cannot attend the hearing, but wish to comment on Applicants' proposed Plans should submit written comments as indicated in the box on page 1.

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<sup>1</sup> Final Decisions in dockets 4580-TI-103 and 5140-TI-100, issued April 26, 2001.

Dockets 300-TI-101, 1020-TI-101

These comments must be received **by noon on Tuesday, October 16, 2001**. Comments by fax are due one day earlier. Fax filing cover sheets **must state "Official Filing"** and include the docket number and the number of pages (limit of 20 pages). **File by one mode only.**

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the hearing coordinator listed below.

Questions from the media may be directed to Jeffrey L. Butson, Public Affairs Director at (608) 267-0912. Questions from others regarding this matter may be directed to hearing coordinator Thomas Gross at (608) 267-2337.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

By the Commission:

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Lynda L. Dorr  
Secretary to the Commission

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